

Publication number : 2001-272640

Date of publication of application : 05.10.2001

Int.Cl. G02F 1/13

5 -----

Application number : 2000-087231

Applicant : FUJITSU LTD

Date of filing : 27.03.2000

Inventor : FURUKAWA KUNIAKI

10 -----

LIQUID CRYSTAL DROPPING DEVICE AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DROPPING
METHOD

[Abstract]

15 PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To suppress the dispersion of dropping quantity of a liquid crystal and to omit frequent supplements of the liquid crystal to a micro syringe, when the liquid crystal is dropped onto a substrate by using the micro syringe.

SOLUTION: A liquid crystal dropping device provided with a liquid crystal tank 4
20 and a switching valve 1 for switching passages is used. After a passage communicating from the liquid crystal tank 4 to a recovering vessel 5 through the switching valve 1 is formed and a passage 3a of the switching valve 1 is filled with the liquid crystal L, a passage communicating from the liquid crystal tank 4 to the micro syringe 6 through the switching valve 1 is formed and the liquid crystal L is
25 taken in the micro syringe 6. Then a passage communicating from the micro

syringe 6 to a dropping nozzle 9 through the switching valve 1 is formed and a prescribed quantity of liquid crystal L is ejected from the micro syringe 6 by the precise feeding of a piston 7. Then a passage communicating from a pressurized gas source G to the dropping nozzle 9 through the switching valve 1 is formed and
5 the pressurized gas is introduced to eject the all quantity of the liquid crystal L in the passage from the dropping nozzle 9.

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] A one-drop fill apparatus for liquid crystals comprising a liquid crystal tank for storage of liquid crystals, a micro-syringe, and a piston accurate motion device to move a piston of the micro-syringe by only a predetermined amount, and
5 a switching valve to change a flow path and a one-drop fill nozzle, wherein the flow path changed and formed by the switching valve includes a first flow path from the liquid crystal tank communicating with the micro-syringe via the switching valve; a second flow path from the micro-syringe communicating with the one-drop fill nozzle via the switching valve; and a third flow path from a compressed gas source
10 communicating with the one-drop fill nozzle via the switching valve, of which the first flow path is for introducing the liquid crystals into the micro-syringe, the second flow path is for ejecting the liquid crystals in a constant amount only from the micro-syringe by the piston accurate motion device and the third flow path is for ejecting the liquid crystals from the one-drop fill nozzle.

15 [Claim 2] The one-drop fill apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the one-drop fill nozzle has a double-cylindrical structure comprising an inner duct and an outer duct at a front end of the nozzle, in which the outer duct communicates with the compressed gas source and the compressed gas blows into through the outer

duct while the liquid crystals are ejected out of the inner duct.

[Claim 3] A one-drop fill process for liquid crystals using the one-drop fill apparatus as set forth in claim 1 comprising the steps of: forming the first path from the liquid crystal tank communicating with the micro-syringe while interposing the
5 switching valve and introducing the liquid crystals into the micro-syringe; forming the second path from the micro-syringe communicating with the one-drop fill nozzle via the switching valve and ejecting the liquid crystals from the micro-syringe in a constant amount only by the piston accurate motion device; and forming the third flow path from the compressed gas source communicating with the one-drop fill
10 nozzle while interposing the switching valve and introducing the compressed gas into the third flow path, thus, ejecting the liquid crystals in the third flow path as a whole from the one-drop fill nozzle.

[Title of the Invention]

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ONE-DROP FILLING LIQUID CRYSTALS

15 **[Detailed Description of the Invention]**

[Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to preparation of liquid crystal panels, in

particular, an apparatus and a method for one-drop filling liquid crystal on a glass substrate in fabrication of large sized liquid crystal panels.

[Description of the Prior Art]

Among large size liquid crystal panels used in products having a display
5 such as personal computer, TV and so on, there is most widely adopted an active-matrix type color liquid crystal panel by TFT way. Such liquid crystal panel has been manufactured facing two sheets of glass plate having electrodes formed with each other, adhering around fringes thereof by a sealant and vacuum-injecting liquid crystal into an aperture between the glass plates.

10 However, the above process required extremely long time for a large-size panel of introduction of liquid crystal (for example, one day for 20 inch panel), thus, recently adopts the following way: firstly, a sheet of glass plate is applied with a sealant around fringe thereof, followed by one-drop filling a constant amount of liquid crystal into image display region of the glass plate. Next, the glass plate
15 contacts and is adhered to another sheet of glass plate in a vacuum condition, then, is heated in an atmosphere to cure the sealant.

It is necessary to practically conduct the one-drop filling process of the liquid crystal in a wide range by dividing the liquid crystal into a number of drops, for example, more than several tens of drop such that the liquid crystal after adhering

both of the glass plate sheets rapidly and evenly spreads over the sheets. When the one-drop fill amounts to totally 500mg, one drop has several mgs of amount. A particular example of the apparatus and the method for one-drop filling liquid crystal comprises introducing the liquid crystal in a vertical micro-syringe, precisely moving
5 a piston (or plunger) of the syringe to eject a very small amount of the liquid crystal from the one-drop nozzle, dropping the liquid crystal over a glass plate, and repeatedly carrying out the dropping step while moving any one of the glass plate or the micro-syringe.

[Problems to be solved by the Invention]

10 However, since the above known apparatus and method for dropping an extremely small amount, for example, about several mgs, of liquid crystal per a time, then suffer drawbacks in that they are easy to cause irregularity in amount of the liquid crystal one-drop fill at every time, thus, have a difficulty in satisfying a desired accuracy (for example, $\pm 1\%$) of total weight of the one-drop fill. Further, the
15 liquid crystal should be often filled up in the micro-syringe,

Accordingly, the present invention has an object of solving the foregoing problems and provides an apparatus and a method for one-drop filling liquid crystal useful for removing irregularity in amount of the liquid crystal one-drop fill while eliminating a troublesome labor to frequently fill up the liquid crystal into the micro-

syringe.

[Means for Solving the Problem]

In a first aspect of the present invention to accomplish the objects described above, a liquid crystal one-drop fill apparatus comprises a liquid crystal tank for storing the liquid crystal, a micro-syringe, a piston accurate motion device to move a piston of the micro-syringe in a predetermined amount only, an one-drop fill nozzle and a switching valve to change a flow path; wherein the flow path includes a first flow path from the liquid crystal tank communicating with the micro-syringe via the switching valve; a second flow path from the micro-syringe communicating with the one-drop fill nozzle via the switching valve; and a third flow path from a compressed gas source communication with the one-drop fill nozzle via the switching valve in order, and is characterized in that the liquid crystal is introduced in the micro-syringe when the first flow path is formed, ejected in a constant amount only from the micro-syringe by the piston accurate motion device when the second flow path is formed, and ejected from the one-drop fill nozzle by introducing a compressed gas when the third flow path is formed.

In another aspect of the present invention, a liquid crystal one-drop fill process using a liquid crystal one-drop fill apparatus which includes a liquid crystal tank for storing the liquid crystal, a micro-syringe, a piston accurate motion device

to move a piston of the micro-syringe in a predetermined amount only, an one-drop fill nozzle and a switching valve to change a flow path comprises steps of: forming a first flow path from the liquid crystal tank communicating with the micro-syringe through the switching valve and introducing the liquid crystal into the micro-syringe;

5 forming a second flow path from the micro-syringe communicating with the one-drop fill nozzle via the switching valve and ejecting the liquid crystal from the micro-syringe in a constant amount only by the piston accurate motion device; and

forming a third flow path from a compressed gas source communicating with the one-drop fill nozzle while interposing the switching valve and introducing the

10 compressed gas into the third flow path, thus, ejecting the liquid crystal in the third flow path as a whole from the one-drop fill nozzle.

Briefly, since the switching valve changes the flow path after filling up the liquid crystal in the flow path involving the switching valve, the flow path charged with the liquid crystal is blocked by the switching valve to define amount of the

15 liquid crystal. The defined liquid crystal as a whole is pushed out of the one-drop fill nozzle by the compressed gas, thereby not causing irregularity in amount of the liquid crystal one-drop fill at every time. In addition, the present method includes the step of introducing the liquid crystal from the liquid crystal tank into the micro-syringe within one cycle of changing the flow path, thereby requiring no supplement

20 of further liquid crystal by a worker oneself.

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Hereinafter, the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description, considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Referring to the drawings, the first embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2. FIG. 1 illustrates a construction of the apparatus according to the first embodiment of the present invention. In FIG. 1, illustrated are a switching valve 1, a main body 2 of the switching valve 1, another main body 3 of the switching valve 1, a liquid crystal tank 4 for storing the liquid crystal L, a recovery container 5 of the liquid crystal L, a micro-syringe 6, a piston (or plunger) 7 of the micro-syringer 7, a piston accurate motion device 8 and an one-drop fill nozzle 9.

The switching valve 1 is 5 ports 4 positions type and comprises the main body 2 having five(5) ports 2a to 2e and the other main body 3 having a pathway 3a consisting of microfine penetration holes. The main body 3 changes the flow path four times by one(1) revolution thereof. Since the five ports 2a to 2e are disposed by an equal pitch (for example, at a central angle of 60 degree for each of the ports in this case), then, a distance between both ends of the pathway 3a is exactly same to one pitch of the port. The port 2a connects with a recovery duct 5a leading to the recovery container 5 and the port 2b connects with a liquid feeding duct 4a from the

liquid crystal tank 4. The port 2c connects with the micro-syringe 6 and the port 2d connects with an ejection duct 9a leading to the one-drop fill nozzle 9. Further, the port 2e connects with a gas feeding duct 9b communicating to a compressed gas source G. The liquid crystal tank 4 connects with another gas feeding duct 4b communicating to the compressed gas source G.

The micro-syringe 6 has the piston 7 sliding into a micro tube (for example, having an inner diameter of 1mm or less). The piston accurate motion device 8 consists of, for example, pulse motor and ball type screw to enable the piston 7 accurately moving in the predetermined amount only. The one-drop fill nozzle 9 is preferably made of Teflon (registered tradename) on front end thereof because the material easily bounds the liquid crystal.

FIGs. 2(A) to 2(D) illustrate the flow path of the first embodiment according to the present invention. For the parts in FIGs. 2(A) to 2(D) identical to the parts shown in FIG. 1, the same numerical symbols are given. First of all, if the pathway 3a of the switching valve 1 is on the first position from the port 2a to the port 2b (see FIG. 2(A)), the pathway 3a is filled with the liquid crystal L by introducing a compressed gas (that is, inert gas such as nitrogen) to the liquid tank 4. When the pathway 3a is on the second position from the port 2b to the port 2c (see FIG. 2(B)), a constant amount of the liquid crystal L is inhaled into the micro-syringe 6 by

moving the piston 7 in the predetermined amount only with the piston accurate motion device 8.

Next, in the third position from the port 2c to the port 2d (see FIG. 2(C)), the piston is pushed back by the piston accurate motion device 8. As a result, the liquid crystal L is ejected in the constant amount only from the pathway 3a and entered into the ejection duct 9a. Subsequently, in the fourth position from the port 2d to the port 2e (see FIG. 2(D)), by introducing the compressed gas (that is, inert gas such as nitrogen) to the switching valve 1, the liquid crystal L in both of the pathway 3a and the ejection duct 9a is entirely ejected out from the the one-drop fill nozzle. Thereafter, the process returns to the first position and repeats all of the steps described above. The liquid crystal is dropped at 3 to 7mg per drop and widely by dividing and one-drop filling more than several tens of drop at equal spaces.

The second embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIG. 3. FIG. 3(A) and FIG. 3(B) illustrate the flow path of the second embodiment according to the present invention. For the parts in FIG. 3(A) and 3(B) identical to the parts shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, the same numerical symbols are given. The switching valve 11 is 4 ports 2 positions type and comprises a main body having four(4) ports 12a to 12d and the other main body having two pathways 13a and 13b consisting of microfine penetration holes. The main body changes the flow path twice by

pivotal rotation thereof (at a rotational angle of 90 degree for the main body in this case).

Since the four ports 2a to 2e are disposed by an equal pitch (at a central angle of 90 degree for each of the ports in this case), then, a distance between both
5 ends of the pathways 3a and 3b is exactly same to one pitch of the port. The port 12a connects with the liquid feeding duct 4a from the liquid crystal tank 4. The port 12b connects with the micro-syringe 6 and the port 12c connects with the ejection duct 9a leading to the one-drop fill nozzle 9. Further, the port 12d connects with the gas feeding duct 9b communicating to the compressed gas source G.

10 First of all, if the flow path containing the pathway 13a of the switching valve 11 is on the first position that the pathway 13a passes from the port 12a to the port 12b while the pathway 13b passing from the port 12c to the port 12d (see FIG. 3(A)), a constant amount of the liquid crystal is inhaled into the micro-syringe 6 by pulling the piston 7 in the predetermined amount only with the piston accurate
15 motion device 8 while interposing the pathway 13a filled with the liquid crystal. Besides, the flow path containing the pathway 13b introduces the compressed gas (that is, inert gas such as nitrogen) from the port 12d into the pathway 13b and the liquid crystal L charged in the ejection duct 9a is entirely ejected out from the the one-drop fill nozzle 9.

Next, if the flow path containing the pathway 13a of the switching valve 11 is on the second position that the pathway 13a passes from the port 12b to the port 12c while the pathway 13b passing from the port 12a to the port 12d (see FIG. 3(B)), a constant amount of the liquid crystal is pushed out of the pathway 13a into the ejection duct 9a by pushing back the piston 7 in the predetermined amount only with the piston accurate motion device 8. Besides, the flow path containing the pathway 13b still comes to rest. Thereafter, the process returns to the first position and repeats all of the steps described above.

Yet the third embodiment of the present invention is described in detail referring to FIG. 4. FIG. 4 is a sectional view of inner duct section of the apparatus in the third embodiment of the present invention. For the parts in FIG. 4 identical to the parts shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, the same numerical symbols are given. Herein, the apparatus has an one-drop fill nozzle 19 with a double-cylindrical structure consisting of an inner duct 19a and an outer duct 19b instead of the one-drop fill nozzle 9 in the second embodiment and communicates with the compressed gas source while interposing the inner duct 19a and a gas feeding duct 19c during the connection of the ejection duct 9a with the front end of the nozzle 19. The compressed gas (that is, inert gas such as nitrogen) is introduced and blows into through the outer duct in a direction parallel to the ejection of liquid crystal while ejecting the liquid crystal out of the inner duct 19a.

Accordingly, the liquid crystal does not adhere on front end of the one-drop fill nozzle even when the front end is made of a material hardly bounding the liquid crystal, thereby causing no irregularity in amount of the liquid crystal one-drop fill due to adhesion of the liquid crystal.

- 5 The above embodiments are only used to illustrate the present invention, not intended to limit the scope thereof. Those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that numerous modifications and alterations of the invention may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[Effect of the Invention]

- 10 As described above, the present invention provides the liquid crystal one-drop fill method and apparatus which have no irregularity in amount of the liquid crystal one-drop fill at every time and can eliminate a troublesome labor to frequently fill up the liquid crystal into the micro-syringe.

[Description of Drawings]

FIG. 1 illustrates a construction of the apparatus according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

FIGs. 2A to 2B illustrate the flow path of the first embodiment according to
5 the present invention.

FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B illustrate the flow path of the second embodiment according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a sectional view of inner duct section of the apparatus in the third embodiment of the present invention

10 [Meaning of numerical symbols in the drawings]

1:	switching valve	2:	valve main body
2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e:	port	3:	valve main body
3a:	pathway	4:	liquid crystal tank
4a:	liquid feeding duct	4b:	gas feeding duct
15 5:	recovery container	5a:	recovery duct
6:	micro-syringe	7:	piston
8:	piston accurate motion device	9:	one-drop fill nozzle

9a: ejection duct

9b: gas feeding duct

11: switching valve

12a, 12b, 12c, 12d: port

13a, 13b: pathway

19: one-drop fill nozzle

19a: inner duct

19b: outer duct

5

19c: gas feeding duct

(19)日本国特許庁 (J P)

(12) 公開特許公報 (A)

(11)特許出願公開番号

特開2001-272640

(P2001-272640A)

(43)公開日 平成13年10月5日(2001.10.5)

(51)Int.Cl.⁷

G 0 2 F 1/13

識別記号

1 0 1

F I

C 0 2 F 1/13

特許庁(参考)

1 0 1 2 H 0 8 8

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数3 O L (全 5 頁)

(21)出願番号 特願2000-87231(P2000-87231)

(22)出願日 平成12年3月27日(2000.3.27)

(71)出願人 000003223

富士通株式会社

神奈川県川崎市中原区上小田中4丁目1番
1号

(72)発明者 古川 訓朗

神奈川県川崎市中原区上小田中4丁目1番
1号 富士通株式会社内

(74)代理人 100108187

弁理士 横山 淳一

Fターム(参考) 2H088 FA09 FA24 FA30 MA20

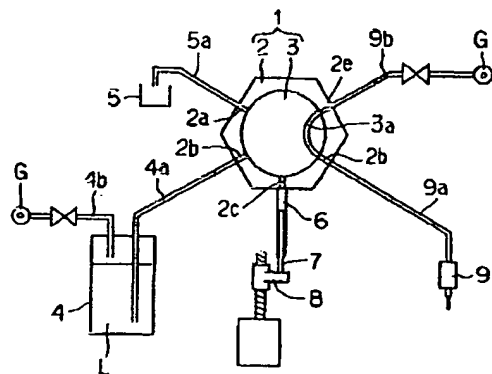
(54)【発明の名称】 液晶滴下装置及び液晶滴下方法

(57)【要約】

【課題】 マイクロシリンジを使用して基板上に液晶を滴下する際の、滴下量のばらつきを抑え、且つマイクロシリンジ内への液晶の頻繁な補充を省く。

【解決手段】 液晶タンク4と流路を切り替える切換弁1とを備えた液晶滴下装置を使用し、液晶タンク4から切換弁1を介して回収容器5に連通する流路を形成して液晶Lを切換弁1の通路3aに充填した後、液晶タンク4から切換弁1を介してマイクロシリンジ6に連通する流路を形成して液晶Lをマイクロシリンジ6に取り込み、次にマイクロシリンジ6から切換弁1を介して滴下ノズル9に連通する流路に切り換えて液晶Lをピストン7の精密送りによりマイクロシリンジ6から所定量だけ吐出し、次に圧縮気体源Gから切換弁1を介して滴下ノズル9に連通する流路に切り換えて圧縮気体を導入することでその流路内の液晶L全量を滴下ノズル9から吐出する。

本発明の第一の実施の形態を示す装置構成図



1: 切換弁 2: 弁軸 2a~2e: ポート 3: 弁体
3a: 通路 4: 液晶タンク 4a: 給液管 4b: 給気管
5: 回収容器 5a: 回収管 6: マイクロシリンジ
7: ピストン 8: ピストン精密送り機構 9: 滴下ノズル
9a: 吐出管 9b: 給気管 L: 液晶 G: 圧縮気体源

に連通する第二の流路を形成して該液晶を該ピストン精密送り機構により該マイクロシリンジから所定量だけ吐出する工程と、圧縮気体源から該切換弁を介して該滴下ノズルに連通する第三の流路を形成して該第三の流路に圧縮気体を導入することで該第三の流路内の液晶全量を該滴下ノズルから吐出する工程と、を有することを特徴とする液晶滴下方法としている。

【0009】即ち、切換弁を含む流路に液晶を充填した後、切換弁により流路を切り換えるから、液晶が充填された流路が切換弁により分断されて液晶量が画定し、画定された液晶は圧縮気体で全量が滴下ノズルから押し出されるから、毎回の滴下量にばらつきを生じない。また、この流路切り換えの1サイクル内に液晶を液晶タンクからマイクロシリンジに取り込む工程を含んでいるから、作業者が液晶をマイクロシリンジに補充する必要はない。

【0010】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の第一の実施の形態を、図1及び図2を参照しながら説明する。図1は本発明の第一の実施の形態を示す装置構成図である。同図において、1は切換弁、2は切換弁1の弁胴、3は切換弁1の弁体、4は液晶Lを貯留する液晶タンク、5は液晶Lの回収容器、6はマイクロシリンジ、7はマイクロシリンジ6のピストン（プランジャ）、8はピストン精密送り機構、9は滴下ノズルである。

【0011】切換弁1は5ポート4ポジションであり、5個のポート2a～2eを備えた弁胴2の中を、微細な貫通孔からなる通路3aを備えた弁体3が1回転して、流路を4回切り換える。5個のポート2a～2eは等しいピッチで配置されており（この例では中心角が各々60°）、通路3aの両端間の距離は上記ポートの1ピッチに等しい。ポート2aには回収容器5に至る回収管5aが、ポート2bには液晶タンク4からの給液管4aが、ポート2cにはマイクロシリンジ6が、ポート2dには滴下ノズル9に至る吐出管9aが、ポート2eには圧縮気体源Gに連通する給気管9bが、それぞれ接続されている。液晶タンク4には圧縮気体源Gに連通する給気管4bが接続されている。

【0012】マイクロシリンジ6は細管（例えば内径が1mm以下）内をピストン7が滑動するものである。ピストン精密送り機構8は例えばパルスモータとボールねじで構成され、ピストン7を設定量だけ精密送りする。滴下ノズル9の先端の材質は、液晶をはじき易いテフロン（登録商標）等が望ましい。

【0013】図2（A）～（D）は本発明の第一の実施の形態を示す流路図である。同図において、図1と同じものには同一の符号を付与した。先ず切換弁1の通路3aがポート2aからポート2bに通じる第一のポジション（図2（A）参照）で、液晶タンク4に圧縮気体（窒素等の不活性ガス）を導入することで液晶Lを切換弁1

の通路3aに充填する。余分な液晶Lは回収管5aに逃がす。次に通路3aがポート2bからポート2cに通じる第二のポジション（図2（B）参照）で、ピストン7をピストン精密送り機構により設定量だけ引き出すことでマイクロシリンジ6内に所定量の液晶Lを吸引する。

【0014】次にポート2cからポート2dに通じる第三のポジション（図2（C）参照）で、ピストン7をピストン精密送り機構8により設定量だけ押し戻す。これにより所定量の液晶Lが通路3aから吐出管9a内に押し出される。次にポート2dからポート2eに通じる第四のポジション（図2（D）参照）で、切換弁1に圧縮気体（窒素等の不活性ガス）を導入することで通路3a内と吐出管9a内の液晶L全量を残らず滴下ノズル9から吐出させる。その後、第一のポジションに戻って、上記の工程を繰り返す。1滴当たり例えば3～7mg、等間隔で数十滴以上に分けて広範囲に滴下する。

【0015】次に、本発明の第二の実施の形態を、図3を参照しながら説明する。図3（A）、（B）は本発明の第二の実施の形態を示す流路図である。同図において、図1、図2と同じものには同一の符号を付与した。11は切換弁である。切換弁11は4ポート2ポジションであり、4個のポート12a～12dを備えた弁胴2の中を、微細な貫通孔からなる2個の通路13a、13bを備えた弁体3が一定の範囲（この例では回転角90°）を回動して、流路を2回切り換える。

【0016】4個のポート12a～12dは等しいピッチで配置されており（この例では中心角が各々90°）、通路13a及び13bの両端間の距離はいずれも上記ポートの1ピッチに等しい。ポート12aには液晶タンクからの給液管4aが、ポート12bにはマイクロシリンジ6が、ポート12dには滴下ノズル9に至る吐出管9aが、ポート12cには圧縮気体源に連通する給気管9bが、それぞれ接続されている。

【0017】先ず切換弁11の通路13aがポート12aからポート12bに通じ、通路13bがポート12cからポート12dに通じる第一のポジション（図3（A）参照）で、通路13aを含む流路では、ピストン7をピストン精密送り機構により設定量だけ引き出すことでマイクロシリンジ6内に所定量の液晶を液晶が充填された通路13aを介して吸引し、一方、通路13bを含む流路では、ポート12dから通路13bに圧縮気体（窒素等の不活性ガス）を導入し、前工程で吐出管9a内に充填されていた液晶全量を残らず滴下ノズル9から吐出させる。

【0018】次に通路13aがポート12bからポート12cに通じ、通路13bがポート12aからポート12dに通じる第二のポジション（図3（B）参照）で、通路13aを含む流路では、ピストン7をピストン精密送り機構により設定量だけ押し戻し、これにより所定量の液晶が通路13aから吐出管9a内に押し出される。

一方、通路13bを含む流路では、動きがない。その後、第一のポジションに戻って、上記の工程を繰り返す。

【0019】次に、本発明の第三の実施の形態を、図4を参照しながら説明する。図4は本発明の第三の実施の形態を示す部品断面図である。同図において、図1及び図2と同じものには同一の符号を付与した。これは、前述の第一及び第二の実施の形態における滴下ノズル9に換えて、先端部が、吐出管9aが接続される内管19aと給気管19cを介し圧縮気体源に連通する外管19bからなる二重管構造をなす滴下ノズル19が装備されており、液晶が圧縮気体により内管19aから吐出する際に、別途、圧縮気体（窒素等の不活性ガス）を外管に導入して、液晶の吐出方向と平行に圧縮気体を吹き出すものである。

【0020】これにより、滴下ノズル先端の材質が液晶をはじきにくいものであっても、液晶がノズル先端に付着することはない。従って、液晶の付着によって滴下量のばらつきを生じることはない。

【0021】本発明は以上の例に限定されることなく、更に種々変形して実施することができる。

【0022】

【発明の効果】以上説明したように、本発明によれば、毎回の液晶滴下量のばらつきがなく、且つマイクロシリンドリ内へ液晶を頻りに補充する手間を省くことができる液晶滴下装置及び液晶滴下方法を提供することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】 本発明の第一の実施の形態を示す装置構成図である。

【図2】 本発明の第一の実施の形態を示す流路図である。

【図3】 本発明の第二の実施の形態を示す流路図である。

【図4】 本発明の第三の実施の形態を示す部品断面図である。

【符号の説明】

- 1 切換弁
- 2 弁胴
- 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e ポート
- 3 弁体
- 3a 通路
- 4 液晶タンク
- 4a 給液管
- 4b 給気管
- 5 回収容器
- 5a 回収管
- 6 マイクロシリンドリ
- 7 ピストン
- 8 ピストン精密送り機構
- 9 滴下ノズル
- 9a 吐出管
- 9b 給気管
- 11 切換弁
- 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d ポート
- 13a, 13b 通路
- 19 滴下ノズル
- 19a 内管
- 19b 外管
- 19c 給気管

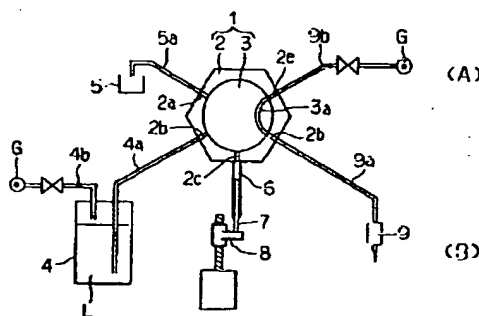
【図1】

【図3】

【図4】

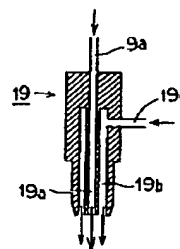
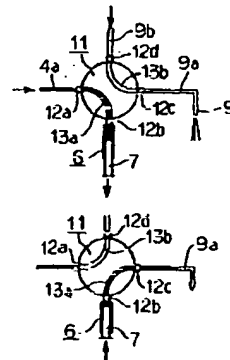
本発明の第一の実施の形態を示す装置構成図

本発明の第二の実施の形態を示す流路図 本発明の第三の実施の形態を示す部品断面図



(A)

(B)



- 1: 切換弁 2: 弁胴 2a~2e: ポート 3: 弁体
- 3a: 通路 4: 液晶タンク 4a: 給液管 4b: 給気管
- 5: 回収容器 5a: 回収管 6: マイクロシリンドリ
- 7: ピストン 8: ピストン精密送り機構 9: 滴下ノズル
- 9a: 吐出管 9b: 給気管 L: 液晶 G: 圧縮気体源

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☒ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.